

EDEYRNION RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(DR. EVAN RICHARDS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR
(E. P. JONES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1954

Printed by Walker & Sons, Chester House, Dolgelley.



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COUNTY OFFICES,
LOMBARD STREET,
DOLGELLEY,
11th November, 1955.

To The Edeyrnion Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Corwen.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the health report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

The population remained the same as the pervious year.

The number of births was greater than in 1953, as was the number of deaths.

There was no infant mortality during the year.

Cancer mortality was one greater than in the previous year.

There was one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis variety.

There was a continuation of the epidemic of whooping cough from the end of the previous year into the beginning of 1954. Two cases of Meningitis, and two of Pneumonia were notified. There were no cases of food Poisoning.

I wish to thank Mr. E. P. Jones for his co-operation during the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

EVAN RICHARDS,
District Medical Officer.

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Rural District Council (in Acres)	43,449
Rateable Value	£18,513
Population (Registrar General's figures)	4,120
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£74
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at the end of the year	1,332

Comparability Factors:—

Births	1.13
Deaths	0.79

VITAL STATISTICS.

Nett. Births (Live and Still)	68
Births (Live)	66
Births (Still)	2

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ...	16.02
------------------------------------------	-------

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births)=4.55

Live Births:—

	Males	Females
Total	38	28
Legitimate	38	25
Illegitimate	—	3

Deaths:—

Total Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
								Males	Females
								42	32
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.96	
1953 figures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.07	

Deaths of Infants under One Year:—

	Males	Females
Total	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births) Nil

1953 figures 17.24

Deaths of Legitimate Infants:—

Mortality (per 1,000 live births) Nil

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants:—

Mortality per 1,000 live births Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks:—

	Males	Females
Total	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Maternal Mortality:—

(Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy—Nil).

Deaths from Cancer:

Total	11
Rate per 1,000 population	2.67

Deaths from Tuberculosis:—

Total	1
Rate per 1,000 population	0.24

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority:—

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Sanitary Inspector.

(2) Laboratory Facilities:—

Water analysis (Chemical) carried out by Mr. Harold Lowe, Public Analyst, Chester.

Water analysis (Bacteriological) and milk examination for cleanliness and keeping quality by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. No charge is made for this later service.

(3) Ambulance Facilities:—

One Ambulance is stationed at Corwen.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics:—

Held once a month in the Aelwyd Building, Corwen.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics:—

Held once a month in the Aelwyd Building, Corwen.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic:—

Held once a month in the Aelwyd Building, Corwen.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic:—

Held at Dolgelley twice a month.

(8) Diphtheria Immunisation:—

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young children carried out at the Primary Schools.

(9) **Hospitals:—**

There is no hospital within the rural area.

(10) **Infectious Diseases:—**

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year	12
Scarlet Fever	2
Bacillary Dysentery	—
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	1
Infantile Paralysis	—
Meningitis	2
Pneumonia	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases:—

Pulmonary:	Total 9.
Males 5	Females 4
Non-Pulmonary:	Total Nil
Males Nil	Females Nil

Tuberculosis Deaths:—

Pulmonary:	Total Nil
Males Nil	Females Nil
Non-Pulmonary:	Total 1.
Males Nil	Females 1

New Cases and Mortality during 1954 in age groups:—

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH 1953.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Cancer—Stomach	1	1
„ Lung	1	1
„ Breast	—	—
„ Other Sites	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	5	—
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart diseases	12	10
Other circulatory disease	2	1
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	—	1
Bronchitis	3	1
Other diseases or respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	—
Suicide	—	—
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	—	1
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	4	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Congenital Malformations	1	2
Total ...	42	32

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was found necessary during 1954.

GENERAL.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Corwen.—The supply of water is derived from Nant Cawrddu and two unnamed streams. The water is impounded at an open reservoir 900 feet above sea level, with a capacity of 3½ million gallons piped to a service reservoir of 104,000 gallons at 665 feet above sea level and thence to the town by 6 inch cast iron main. The water is delivered in to the mains untreated. The supply to the town was well maintained throughout the year.

Carrog.—The supply of water derived from springs is piped to a service reservoir with a capacity of 25,000 gallons. Although the supply is affected by drought, the service to the village was fairly well maintained during the year.

Cynwyd.—This village has a reliable supply of water piped to a service reservoir with a capacity of 30,000 gallons. The water is plumbo-solvent and is untreated,

Llandrillo.—The source of supply is from springs above Blaendre Uchaf, and is piped to a service reservoir with a capacity of 30,000 gallons. The supply is very inadequate; the water is plumbo-solvent.

Gwyddelwern.—The scheme for the supply of water to the village from Corwen was completed during the year. The water will be taken from the Corwen supply until the Corwen and District Scheme from Cynwyd is in operation when the source will be Cynwyd.

Glyndyfrdwy.—The village has two separate public supplies and one private supply. The greater part of the village is supplied from two small tanks at Ty Ucha'r Bont. The supply is very unsatisfactory both as regards the quantity and capacity of the tanks..

Bettws G.G.—The village is supplied from a service reservoir with a capacity of 30,000 gallons deriving its supply from the Birkenhead Aqueduct.

Melin-y-Wig.—Water is supplied by service main from the Birkenhead Aqueduct.

General.—Very little progress was made during the year on the Corwen and District Water Scheme. Owing to the wet summer none of the village supplies were curtailed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Corwen.—The town of Corwen is well sewered, the whole of the properties being sewered with the exception of 12 houses which are drained to Septic Tanks. The sewers discharge direct into the River Dee and this method of disposal is very unsatisfactory. Plans for a Disposal Works near the sewer outfall have been prepared and it is hoped that the work will be carried out in the near future.

Carrog.—The village is not sewered, but most houses are drained with connections to Septic Tanks and Cesspools. A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme has been prepared for the village.

Cynwyd.—Part of the village is sewered with outfall to the River Dee. The other part of the village has no sewer, and many houses have no means of disposal of slop water. Conditions are very unsatisfactory. During the year work was completed on the laying of a sewer from 12 new houses and the construction of the Settling Tank which will form part of the main sewage disposal scheme.

Bettws Gwerfil Goch.—A Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme has been prepared.

Glyndyfrdwy.—The village is partly sewered. 8 houses erected by the Council have Elsan Closets and are drained to a Cesspool. Conditions are very unsatisfactory but it is hoped that work on the new scheme will commence in 1954.

Gwyddelwern.—Work was continued during the year on the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village.

General.—With the construction of the schemes in the various villages the question of regular maintenance becomes important, as it is only by constant attention that the works can be efficiently maintained and a satisfactory effluent discharged from the works.

HOUSING.

There are 166 houses, 3 flats, 1 shop owned by the Council in the various villages made up as follows:—

Corwen:—70 houses, 1 flat, 1 shop.

Cynwyd:—32 houses and 2 flats.

Llandrillo:—26 houses.

Gwyddelwern:—4 houses.

Carrog:—14 houses.

Glyndyfrdwy:—12 houses.

Melin-y-wig:—8 houses.

During the year 10 houses and 2 flats were completed at Cynwyd. 9 houses and 2 flats were commenced at Gwyddelwern.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR.

E. P. JONES, (C.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.)

The district is regularly inspected and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. There are many properties in the district with no suitable sanitary arrangements for drainage. Little progress can be made towards raising the housing standards of the existing houses until the various sewerage and sewage disposal schemes which are now in hand, have been completed. These schemes are held up because of shortage of water to the villages from the existing supplies, but it is hoped that the comprehensive Corwen and District Water Scheme can be commenced during 1954.

Difficulties were again encountered during the year with general maintenance of the various services which were entirely due to shortage of labour. It appears unlikely that the position will improve until conditions of wages are improved to compare favourably with other industries.

Rivers and Streams:—No action was deemed necessary.

Shops and Offices:—No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934 and Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Some improvements to Sanitary Accommodation in shops were made during the year.

Camping Sites:—One site was licenced for camping during the year.

Smoke Abatement:—The district being practically an agricultural area, is never liable to nuisance from smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools:—There are no public swimming baths or pools in the area.

Rat Infestation:—The survey of all farms in the district was completed during the year. The action taken informally has considerably reduced the infestations generally throughout the district.

Measures of Control:—

TYPE OF PROPERTY	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments carried out			
					By arrangement with Occupier.		Under Section 5 (1)	
			Treatments	Works	Rats	Mice only	Rats	Mice only
Local Authority Property	2	35	—	—	2	—	—	—
Dwelling House	88	141	—	—	88	—	—	—
Business Premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property	176	276	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	266	452	1	—	90	—	—	—

Schools—The sanitary conditions of the Schools in the district is fairly good. All the schools in the district have a piped supply of water from the Council's mains.

HOUSING

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 162
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 162
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 7

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequences of informal action by the Local Authority ... 7

3. Action under Statutory Power during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— | | | | | | |
| (a) | By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | | | | | Nil |

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (2) | Number of houses where defects were remedied as a result | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice | ... | ... | | | | Nil |
| (a) | By Owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | | | | | Nil |

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

(d) Proceedings under section 12 Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect tenements or rooms having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding in the district is being relieved by rehousing. Further reduction will be made as new Council Houses become available. It is not possible to give the present number of houses overcrowded.

Number of inspections and visits made during the year:—

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Refuse and Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Shops and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Number of Plans approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Soil Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
New Buildings and Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Pavilion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Water Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chemical Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk, Supply:—There are 19 Producer-Retailers and 3 Retailers of milk in the district and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Meat and other Foods:—

After extensive alterations the centralised slaughterhouse was reopened in February until the end of rationing in July when private slaughtering was reintroduced.

Three private slaughterhouses were licenced during the year, one at Gwyddelwern and two at Corwen which includes the previously controlled slaughterhouse.

Amount of Meat in lbs. condemned during the year, and cause:—

Dropsy	1670
Crystic	167
Distoma	625
Pneumonia	26
Septis Pneumonia	47
Severe Bruising	39
Braxy	79
Abscess	68
Peritonitis	41
Emaciation	145
Pleurisy	16
Acute Fever	550
Inflammation	172
Septic Metritis	48
Cirrhosis	26
Actinomycosis	28
Coccidiosis	12
Moribund	58
Tuberculosis	260

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	250	125	51	4051	461
Number Inspected	250	125	51	4051	461
All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned	—	2	6	21	7
Percentage of number of animals affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	1.6%	11.76%	0.52%	1.48%
T.B. only—Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	3
T.B.—Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	1.37%

**The amount of tinned and other foodstuffs condemned during the year
was as follows:—**

Tinned Meat	10 Tins
Flour	12 lbs.
Tinned Milk	5 Tins

Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30 Tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 Tins
Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 Jar
Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28 lbs
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 Jars
Malt	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 Jar
Baked Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 Tins
Kippers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.

Bakehouses:—All the bakehouses in the district were inspected and were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Ice Cream Premises:—All Ice Cream is sold prepacked, and all premises were found satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937:—There are 18 factories registered within the district. Of the number inspected condition were found to be satisfactory.

Scavenging:—Refuse collection in the district is carried out by direct labour and the disposal is by the Controlled Tipping Method at a site in Corwen.

Public Conveniences:—The conveniences were fairly well maintained during the year. The total takings for the year was £81 - 10 - 1.

RAINFALL (In Inches).

	1953.	1954.
January	1.30 inches	1.84 inches
February	—	3.14 inches
March	1.91 inches	3.04 inches
April	3.34 inches	1.10 inches
May	2.27 inches	4.89 inches
June	2.95 inches	3.65 inches
July	3.02 inches	2.36 inches
August	2.40 inches	4.45 inches
September	4.39 inches	2.94 inches
October	1.82 inches	6.35 inches
November	3.57 inches	10.0 inches
December	1.10 inches	3.91 inches
	<hr/> 28.07 inches <hr/>	<hr/> 47.67 inches <hr/>

